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Abel, beautiful boy

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traducción de
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(fragmento en inglés)

Characters:

Father

Mother

Abel (son)

Clarisa (daughter)

Preface

An empty space, only an image at the back, lighted by a lantern from the floor. The four characters seem to be posing for a picture. The father is sitting next to the mother, their son is behind, standing between them, their daughter is below, sitting on the floor. All of them smile with a frozen gesture, then, this pose blurs. The father sings “ Beautiful boy” by John Lennon.

Silence

The light enlighten some bulks placed around the space. The four characters come back to daily reality. The space that can be seen now, is empty in the center, there's only a dropped chair in the middle of the space. It is a big cuadrilateral. The bulks which are covered are placed on the edges of this space and the biggest ones are on the corners. There is a record player and lots of old records as well as books and magazines. Nature dawn sounds can be heard encreasingly, birds, the breeze, insects, the countryside silence. The characters listen without moving. The light increases as an accelerating dawn. Suddenly, the son goes straight to some bulks and stops while breathing excited. The sounds turn soft and natural. The son looks at the bulk for a moment, then takes away the sheet that covers it. The dust stays paused in the air and so, the daughter sneezes. The father and the mother run towards their son and try to pull away the sheet from his hands. There is a tension, a cinched rope between father and son. The mother tries to stop it but then she stands by her husband's side, next to him. The tension increases. The daughter runs towards her brother and helps him with her strength. The tension of the game is increasing when the girl sneezes and at the same time she releases the sheet and so does her brother, thus their parents fall down to the floor. Suddenly the place becomes dark, there's only a light coming from a lantern at the back of the space. Four suitcases are enlightened in the same way and place as the “family picture” in the beginning. The four characters stop to look at the image which is at the back of the space, three suitcases, a bag and a guitar case. The father takes the lantern and tries to enlighten the place in every direction.

1- The Refuge

SON

This place smells enclosed!

MOTHER

We can't see anything!

FATHER

I have to change the fuses.

DAUGHTER

There's too much dust (sneezes), I'm not going to stay here, I'm going to the car

MOTHER

Nobody has come for a year, everything is so dirty. We'll clean and suck the dust tomorrow.

FATHER

It's late, as soon as dawn comes, I'll change the fuses.

SON

I can check them, i'm not afraid.

FATHER

No. It's dangerous, it can be damp, there can be a bug. You won't touch anything.

DAUGHTER

But we have to clean. I can't sleep in such a dirty place.

MOTHER

You'll sleep in my bedroom, we'll change the sheets and we'll clean the furniture with a wet cloth, you can remove the dust with water, it stays in the bucket.

DAUGHTER

But the mattress is old and the pillow made of feathers and full of bed mites.

MOTHER

We've brought your mattress and your pillow. You'll be O.K

SON

May the ghost be here?

*Suddenly the light of the lantern the father's got in his hand goes off, the daughter screams, the mother tries to keep her calm while the father tries to make the lantern work. The light returns for a few seconds and goes off again. Now the father's face becomes enlightened. The actions stop.
Silence*

FATHER

After you've had a child, nothing is the same again. You think that after the birth you will always be aware of your child... all the time. It is impossible to see how it changes day after day cause it demands closer and closer attention. When Abel was born, I didn't want to miss anything. At the beginning it was evident how he grew up. I have read in internet that the father of a little English girl called Natalie took her a picture in the same position every single day until she was ten years old because he wanted to have a daily memory of her daughter, after that he put them in a chronological order and published the video on internet... ten years of a person in one minute and twenty five seconds... there comes a time in which you don't realize, suddenly, you have an elder son. I took pictures of him, but not everyday. If I had had a digital camera I wouldn't have los a

moment.

The light from the lantern goes off, Everyone's action can be heard. The son lights a little lantern. The rest of the family stop their actions when they see the light.

FATHER

Where did you get that?

SON

It's mine

FATHER

What do you have it for?

MOTHER

Luckily you've brought it.

SON

Yes...just in case.

DAUGHTER

Just in case?

SON

We are in the middle of nowhere, we have no signal in our mobiles, nor phone or internet either ... we are supposed to take the necessary preventive measures. We have to bring not only medicines, food or clothes. The light may go off , for example and we may need the lantern until we find something else t give light. The lantern is running out of energy and if you don't look for something, it will be completely dark soon.

The lantern goes completely out of energy. It's dark again. Everybody runs, the father grumbles, the mother tries to calm them, suddenly a bright light comes from outside, on the left of the place and it dazzles the father, the mother and the son. The three of them cover their eyes.

FATHER

Turn on the low lights, you're dazzling us us Clarisa...turn on the low lights!

The intensity of the light goes down. The father can finally make the lantern work.

FATHER

Ready Clarisa...Turn off the light and come here.

Clarisa walks into the house and looks around the whole place.

CLARISA

Will we be ok tonight?

They stand still thinking for a while. Irons, owls, frogs , different night sounds can be heard.

The Guardians

Now they react. They look around. The daughter takes her bag and her guitar case and leaves the place. The parents take their suitcases and do the same but , before, the father gives the lantern to Abel.

The daughter comes back and stands at the back of the scene, she can hardly be seen because the light is very low. She plays “ Jealous guy” on the guitar and sings softly the melody.

Abel is enlightened by the lantern.

Dawn comes.

SON

Abel means ephemeral, with a short duration. It's the combination of the greek words “epi” around and “Hemera” day. This refers to what happens throughout a day and doesn't exceed that temporary unit...it starts and finishes soon...in a fleeting moment. With this name I'm destined to a short life. I don't want to be a victim or a martyr.

The son says some lines of the song

I didn't mean to hurt you, I'm sorry that I made you cry, I didn't mean to hurt you, I'm just a jealous guy. I was feeling insecure, you might not love me anymore. I was shivering inside...I was shivering inside. I was trying to catch your eyes, though you were trying to hide them from mine. I was swallowing my pain. I didn't mean to hurt you...I'm sorry that I made you cry...oh no, I'm just a jealous guy.

The sound of the environment slowly disappears.

MOTHER

Hello...hello. Aunt, is it you? I'm sorry we've come without telling you before...well...in any case...I don't know how I could have told you...where you are there's no signal...here neither. What am I saying?...We had to come...it was an urgency. We had a problem in the city...it's so difficult to explain, it's better if you don't know because it may be dangerous for you...What am I doing? What I mean is that the fewer people that know about this, the better. Clarisa doesn't know anything about the problem, we told her that it was a legal issue and that we needed some documents which are here. I promise you everything will stay in the same place it was when we arrived. We won't move anything from its place. I almost don't recognize the house. You stacked the things this way for some reason I don't understand. I miss you so much!

The father, the son and the daughter come back from where they have gone before and they look at the mother who realizes and tries to pretend she's ok.

The sound of the environment increases slowly. Clarisa leaves the guitar somewhere.

DAUGHTER
I'm going for a walk.

FATHER
Don't go fr.

SON
I'll go with her.

Both leave the place.

FATHER
What were you doing?

MOTHER
I was just thinking aloud

FATHER
You're not going to start again with that stupid idea...

MOTHER
Don't fuck me up!

FATHER
Don't talk to me that way!

MOTHER
I'm sorry...I'm sorry...I'm so worried.

FATHER
Me too...but I don't think it's a good idea to add to our problem your aunt's ghost

MOTHER
I would like to have faith or to be superstitious as most people are... after all so much freedom made him vulnerable.

Desperate cries are heard outside. They're Abel's and Clarisa's cries. Their parents run outside the house, finally, the four of them come back. Clarisa is with a hysteria attack, she can hardly breathe, the mother goes running out of the place, the father whispers words to comfort his daughter, the son walks everywhere, in every direction, insulting with an obvious affectation.

FATHER
Abel...Abel stop! Shut up! You're making her feel worse, more nervous.

Abel stops but his body and face produces different nervous tics which decrease slowly while he calms down.

The mother comes back with a glass of water and makes Clarisa drink. Clarisa spits the water and reacts.

DAUGHTER

It's rotten!

FATHER

Why didn't you pay more attention?

MOTHER

Sorry...sorry....I'm so sorry. This water is from the tank, it must have been there for a year.

SON

(laughing) It's better to be scratched by the lapwings than being poisoned with water

DAUGHTER

They held on to my hair!

SON

They didn't like youbecause those fucking birds didn't do anything to me, even though I spanked them while they were coming closer to you with their wings wide open.

DAUGHTER

I walked to the wiring while I was following a yellow butterfly, I felt myself hypnotized by its color....there aren't yellow butterflies at home any more... it was floating over the wet grass, it guided me to the flowers where there were lots of them in each branch, they welcomed me with joy like fairies... When I was a little child I drew them with the body of a woman...They moved their wings and whisper, I could hear their laughs and all the other sounds disappeared. I opened my arms like The Christ of Corcovado and they all posed to stand on my arms, I closed my eyes, the sun went through my eyelids and heated my face...a shadow went pass my closed eyes, I was scared, I made myself smaller to cover my face and the butterflies moved their wings around me, the sounds came back, I heard them cry, two big birds were getting closer with their wings wide open and their excited eyes, they stopped their flight to turn around their body, showing me their lower part...I fell on the wet grass and I started rolling tangled up with the butterflies and the birds flying over me. Suddenly a force lifted me from the ground.